

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4741

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

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CINCSO

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, UY

SUBJ: FINAL SENATE MEETING

CINCSO FOR POLAD

REF: MVD 1957, 1410, 1353

1. AWARE OF PRESIDENT BORDABERRY' S DECREE DISOLVING THE LEGISLATURE, SIXTEEN OF THIRTY SENATORS NEVERTHELESS CONVENED AT MID-NIGHT ON JUNE 26 IN AN EMOTIONAL FINAL SESSION. THOSE PRESENT WERE FROM THE COLORADO PARTY LIST 15 FACTION, THE BLANCO PARTY ROCHA MOVEMENT AND " POR LA PATRIA" FACTIONS, THE " FRENTE AMPLIO" AND COLORADO SENATOR VASCONCELLOS.

2. THE SENATORS CONVENED AFTER MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT SAPELLI, WHO REMAINED IN HIS OFFICE RATHER THAN PRESIDE.

3. WILSON FERREIRA ALDUNATE SPOKE FIRST. HE SAID " IT SEEMS THAT THE EVENTS OF TODAY MIGHT END WITH THE VIOLATION BY JUAN MARIA
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BORDABERRY OF HIS PLEDGE OF OFFICE AND WITH AN ASSAULT ON THE NATION'S INSTITUTIONS AND PUBLIC LIBERTIES." " IF THIS IS TRUE," FERREIRA CHARGED, " BORESBERY AND HIS ACCOMPLICES WILL BE JUDGED BY HISTORY AND ALSO BY THE BLANCO PARTY, WHICH WILL CONSIDER ITSELF IN A STATE OF WAR WITH JUAN MARIA BORDABERRY, THE ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE." HE CLOSED BY CALLING THE BLANCO PARTY " THE MOST RADICAL AND IRRECONCILABLE ENEMY" OF " THE AUTHOR OF THIS ATTACK."

4. LIST 15 SENATOR LUIS HIERRO GAMBARDELLA EXALTED COLORADO PARTY MARTYR BALTASAR BRUM, WHO KILLED HIMSELF AT THE TIME URUGUAY'S CONGRESS DISSOLVED IN 1933, AND SAID THAT " THE BLOOD OF THE IMAGE OF BRUM AND OUR WILL TO DEFEND FREEDOM WITH OUR OWN BLOOD, IF NECESSARY, WILL ALWAYS SHINE THROUGH THE IGNOMINIOUS SHADOW OF TYRANTS."

5. " FRENTE AMPLIO" SENATORS FRANCISCO RODRIGUEZ CAMUSSO AND ENRIQUE RODRIGUEZ CHARGED THAT CLOSURE IS A MANEUVER OF THE " OLIGARCHY" AND DENIED THE CHARGES MADE BY THE EXECUTIVE AGAINST THE LEGISLATURE.

6. ONE OF THE SENATE'S LAST ACTIONS WAS TO APPOINT A COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE CHARGES THAT PUBLIC OFFICIALS IN PAYSANDU HAD BEEN TORTURED BY A LOCAL MILITARY UNIT DURING THE INVESTIGATION OF CORRUPTION IN THE DEPARTMENTAL GOVERNMENT. THE PROPOSAL TO INVESTIGATE HAD BEEN INITIATED BY THE FORMERLY PRO-ADMINISTRATION'S LIST 15 FACTION ON THE BASIS OF SWORN TESTIMONY BY THE TORTURED VICTIMS.

7. SESSION, ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNT, ENDED AT 1:40 HOURS MORNING OF JUNE 27 AMIDST RINGING CRIES FOR DEMOCRACY AND LIBERTY. LAST WORDS WERE BY COLORADO SENATOR EDUARDO PAZ AGUIRRE WHO PROMISED THAT THE " CONGRESS TODAY WILL BE REOPENED BY US OR BY THOSE WHO COME AFTER US."

8. COMMENT: CALCULATED DECISION BY LEADERS OF FERREIRA'S BLANCO PARTY COALITION TO CONFRONT MILITARY/ EXECUTIVE OVER ERRO CASE AND " INFLICT A DEFEAT" ON ADMINISTRATION BY REFUSING TO STRIP ERRO OF HIS IMMUNITIES (REPORTED OUR TELS 1353 AND 1410) HAS NOW BACKFIRED AND COMPOUNDED WHAT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN MILITARY MISCALCULATION IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAVING INSISTED ON PROSECUTING ERRO. RESULT HAS BEEN COLLISION BETWEEN LEGISLATIVE AND MILITARY INSTITUTIONS WITH LATTER NOW HAVING UPPER HAND AND URUGUAY'S DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS SUFFERING SERIOUS BLOW. QUESTION NOW IS WHETHER THERE WILL BE FURTHER CONFRONTATIONS WITH OTHER OPPOSITION FORCES OR WHETHER BORDABERRY AND MILITARY CAN CARRY OUT PROGRAMS THEY SAY WILL RESOLVE URUGUAY'S ENDEMIC PROBLEMS.

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